

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
VICE RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

CO-CHAIR, CANCER CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES
TASK FORCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

800 MAIN STREET
SUITE 3C
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov

June 4, 2018

Hon. Helen M. Albert
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410

Re: Request for investigation into obviously deteriorating and hazardous conditions at BMHA properties

Dear General Albert:

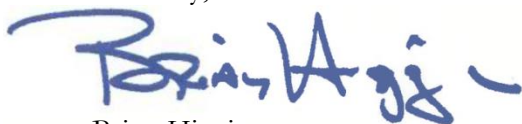
I write today to request an immediate investigation of the chronic mismanagement of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, as evidenced by reporting in yesterday's *Buffalo News* ("Buffalo's worst-rated public housing: Langfield Homes flunks inspection").

In addition to the obviously deteriorating and hazardous conditions at Langfield homes, other BMHA properties remain in distressing and unacceptable condition, as evidenced by the photos of sections of the Commodore Perry Homes which follow, which I took. At Perry, tenants must endure disgusting and unsafe conditions as they reside next to portions of the complex which are disused, improperly sealed, and have become a haven for rats and a colony of feral cats.

I request an investigation by the Inspector General because these disgusting and unsafe conditions have been allowed to persist by BMHA despite substantial investment by the federal government and by the tenants themselves. BMHA has an annual budget of about \$45 million and has about 3,531 occupied units. This means that they are spending \$12,744 per unit per year, or \$1,062 per unit per month. A consumer could rent a luxury apartment in Buffalo for that amount of money. Yet these tenants are forced to live in unsafe, disgusting conditions. BMHA's annual \$45 million budget includes more than \$23 million in HUD subsidies and more than \$10 million in rents paid by tenants themselves. The government and, more importantly, these tenants, are not getting what they are paying for, and that is why I request this investigation.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress





